

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 5 1. A business method for providing Internet access, the method comprising the sequential steps:
- requesting access to the Internet through at least one of a public telephone network, a DSL system, a cable system, a wireless communicating system, and a dedicated line;
- presenting a user name and password;
- 10 verifying a user name, password, account activation status and account time balance;
- acknowledging a user access by identifying an account time balance and expiration date;
- opening user access to the Internet;
- using Internet access for a session time of not more than one of the account time
- 15 balance and expiration date;
- disconnecting Internet access;
- calculating a new account time balance; and
- communicating the new account time balance to the user.
- 20 2. The method of claim 1 comprising the further steps of accessing a report, configuration information and utilities menu; viewing a log; viewing a summary of calls; and viewing a summary of prepaid accounts.
3. A business method for providing Internet access, the method comprising the sequential
- 25 steps:
- requesting access to the Internet through at least one of a public telephone network, a DSL system, a cable system, a wireless communicating system, and a dedicated line;
- presenting a user name and password;
- verifying a user name, password, account activation status and account time balance;

acknowledging a user access by identifying an account time balance and expiration date;

opening user access to the Internet;

using Internet access for a session time of not more than one of the account time balance and expiration date; and

disconnecting Internet access at a time not exceeding the account time balance.

4. The method of claim 3 comprising the further steps of accessing a report, configuring a utilities menu; viewing a log; viewing a summary of calls and viewing a summary of prepaid accounts.

5. The method of claim 3 comprising the further steps of forming an account batch; creating plural prepaid accounts; and tying the prepaid accounts to the account batch.

6. The method of claim 5 comprising the further step of assigning a user, user name and password to each of the prepaid accounts.

7. The method of claim 5 comprising the further step of defining a login limit.

8. The method of claim 3 comprising the further step of actuating at least a portion of the accounts.

9. The method of claim 8 comprising the further step of assigning a total time on the Internet to each of the asset balances of the active accounts.

10. The method of claim 8 comprising the further step of assigning a total elapsed duration of time to each of the asset balances of the active accounts.

11. The method of claim 8 comprising the further step of assigning a total time on the Internet and a total elapsed duration to each of the asset balances of the active accounts.
12. The method of claim 3 comprising the further step of viewing and modifying at least one  
5 of the accounts.
13. The method of claim 3 comprising the further steps of creating a summary of activities of each of the accounts; preparing reports; and storing records for such accounts.
- 10 14. The method of claim 1 comprising the further step of assigning discounts and variable rates.
- 15 15. The method of claim 1 comprising the further steps of assigning top-ups and recharging accounts.
16. The method of claim 1 comprising the further step of assigning a bonus time generator.